

WEATHER

Partly cloudy tonight and tomorrow; somewhat warmer; moderate shifting winds.
Temperature for twenty-four hours ending 2 p.m.: Highest, 68, at 2 p.m. today; lowest, 58, at 1 a.m. today.
Full report on page 16.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 20.

The Evening Star

"From Press to Home Within the Hour"

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ONE CENT.

GERMANS CAPTURE COMIERES VILLAGE ON VERDUN FRONT

Powerful Night Offensive Launched to the East of Dead Man Hill.

FORT DOUAUMONT STILL IS HELD BY THE FRENCH

Crown Prince's Attacks Declared to Be Without Regard to Enormous Sacrifices.

FORCIBLY OF BATTLE APPEALS

Men Seem Bewildered by Thunder of Guns, But Cling to Trenches or Charge With Grim Determination.

PARIS, May 24, 11:15 a.m.—

A powerful offensive was undertaken by the Germans last night to the east of Dead Man hill, on the Verdun front. The attempt in general was unsuccessful, the war office report of this afternoon says, but after a fierce hand-to-hand struggle the attacking forces made their way into a portion of the village of Comieres. At this point the French are faced by more than three divisions.

German attacks on Fort Douaumont, the corner stone of the Verdun defenses, are said virtually to have failed. Notwithstanding the determination of their attacks and what is characterized as a most reckless expenditure of life the Germans succeeded only in taking a small part of a trench east of the fort.

Most Violent of Battles.

The battle around Verdun continues to rage with a violence unexampled even in this region. The Germans are striving with every resource in their power to capture hill No. 304 and Dead Man hill, on the left bank of the Meuse, and to win back the famous Fort Douaumont on the right bank, which was wrested from them by Gen. Neville's brilliantly planned and executed offensive.

Without full possession of the line from Pepper hill to Vaux fort, the Germans cannot hope to get any nearer to the capture of Verdun. Even if they succeeded in taking this line they could not hold it unless they were also in possession of hill No. 304 and Dead Man hill, which outflank the line.

Many Die to Gain Inches.

All day yesterday the tide of war ebbed and flowed, inches of ground being won and lost at an appalling cost in men. As one French officer said: "Plots of land come high here." Again and again after reducing trenches to a crumbling heap of ruins by a deluge of shells the German infantry dashed forward only to be caught and swept away by a hurricane of machine fire from the French batteries and machine guns.

The conditions of the present war have transformed the traditional courage of the French soldiers into an inviolable stoicism. Men have stood their ground manfully in a situation which it seemed beyond human nature to support. When night fell last night the positions on both sides were unchanged. The French held firmly all their gains, while the Germans incurred fearful losses without getting near to any decisions. Describing the battle around Fort Douaumont, one combatant said:

Trenches Are Destroyed.

"For four miles behind us there was not a trench or a communication, nothing but shell holes, one within another. Every inch of the ground was plowed up by an expenditure of ammunition which is inconceivable. In holes made by fifteen-inch shells you could stable fifteen horses easily. The few trees still standing have been stripped of their branches and looked like telegraph poles. It is the abomination of desolation. Not for a second do the guns cease roaring or men cease falling. As soon as a trench is made the shells begin to drop and the survivors have to begin all over again. Attacks have become almost impossible, because in the terrific tornado of artillery fire the infantry on either side are unable alike to advance or retreat. Verdun will certainly not be taken from this point.

"I cannot understand how our men are able to keep it up. You are exterminated in your boots without seeing the enemy. The terrific noise leaves us half stunned. Men look at each other with bewildered eyes. It requires a strong effort of the will to speak to a comrade."

Official French Statement.

The text of the statement issued by the war office follows:
"In the Champagne district the Germans by the use of gas endeavored to occupy our lines at a point west of the Navarin farm. Our curtain of fire

FAVORS BRANDEIS BY A PARTY VOTE

Senate Committee Approves His Nomination for the Supreme Court.

NO DATE SET FOR VOTE ON THE CONFIRMATION

Opponents Will Make a Vigorous Fight When Final Action Comes on the Appointment.

The Senate judiciary committee voted 10 to 8 today to report favorably to the Senate the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis to be associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. It was a strict party vote.

No plan as to when the nomination will be taken up in the Senate has yet been formulated.

The action of the committee remained in doubt up to the time the vote was taken. Senator Shields, democrat, of Tennessee, arrived in the capital today just in time to cast the deciding vote. He conferred with Senator Smith of Georgia before going to the committee room, but would not state his decision before casting his vote.

How Committeemen Voted.

Senator Cummins of Iowa was the only member of the committee not present. His vote, however, was recorded against confirmation. Senators voting for confirmation were Culliver, Overman, Chilton, O'Gorman, Fletcher, Reed, Ashurst, Shields, Walsh and Smith of Georgia.

Senators voting against confirmation were Clark of Wyoming, Nelson, Dillingham, Sutherland, Brandegee, Borah, Cummins and Works.

The vote is one of the final steps in a contest which started as soon as the nomination was sent to the Senate by President Wilson January 28. Weeks were spent by the subcommittee taking testimony regarding charges against the nominee formulated by a committee of citizens of Boston. The committee recommended confirmation by a strict party vote of three to two.

Debated Fully in Committee.

The judiciary committee has debated this testimony fully. Doubt existed as to the attitude of four democrats—Senators Reed, O'Gorman, Smith of Georgia and Shields. To win a favorable report it was necessary for all democrats to vote for Mr. Brandeis.

It became known last week that Senator Brandeis wrote a letter to the committee strongly urging confirmation. The charge, however, was that the letter was a mere formality and that the committee was organized to fight confirmation. William H. Taft, Simon E. Baldwin, Frank B. Rowland, Joseph H. Choate, Elihu Root, Moorfield Storey and Peter W. M. McDermott, each a former president of the American Bar Association, also opposed confirmation.

Favored by President Eliot.

On the other hand, Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard, only a few days ago wrote a letter to the committee strongly urging confirmation. Secretary of War Baker appeared on the witness stand to ask for confirmation on the basis of Mr. Brandeis' efforts to establish social justice, and President Wilson recently wrote a personal letter to Chairman Culliver, explaining the reasons for making the nomination and urging confirmation.

INQUIRY INTO SAFETY OF AMERICANS FAVORED

Senate Committee Recommends Secretary of State Investigate Condition of U. S. Citizens in Ireland.

The Senate committee on foreign relations recommended today a favorable report on Senator Kern's resolution directing the Secretary of State to inquire regarding the safety of American citizens in Ireland in districts where martial law has been proclaimed.

As agreed to by the committee the resolution sets forth:

"It is represented that at the time of the recent revolt in Ireland there were, and are yet, many American citizens in districts in which martial law was proclaimed and in which armed conflicts occurred, and whereas the relatives and friends in this country of such American citizens whose safety has been thus endangered are apprehensive lest their lives and property have been imperiled, and that the Secretary of State is hereby requested to cause inquiry to be made through the proper representatives as to the safety and well-being of American citizens in Ireland, and to take what steps, if any, may be necessary and proper for the safeguarding and protection of their lives and property."

NAMED TO FILL VACANCY.

Most Rev. Jeremiah J. Hartley Appointed Bishop of Omaha.

ROME, Italy, May 24.—The Most Rev. Jeremiah J. Hartley, Archbishop of Manila, has been appointed Bishop of Omaha.

Archbishop Hartley will fill the vacancy in the Omaha diocese caused by the death of the Rt. Rev. Richard Scannell, who died January 8. He was appointed Archbishop of Manila in 1913. Prior to this appointment he organized the parish of St. Leo, in St. Louis, Mo.

WILL PRESS FIGHT FOR RETIREMENT

Senator Pomerene Hopes for Early Action Benefiting Federal Employees.

DATA ON U. S. CLERKS ASKED BY THE SENATE

Authorization of Hearings by Committee on Civil Service Also Granted by Upper House.

Senator Pomerene of Ohio, chairman of the Senate committee on civil service and retirement, indicated today that he intended to do all in his power to get a bill before the Senate providing a system of retirement of civil service employees at the present session, and to get action upon it. Failing this, however, he will seek to have the matter taken up for consideration by Congress as soon as it meets next December, and disposed of.

The Senate has adopted a resolution calling upon the efficiency bureau of the government to collect and report the ages, salaries and length of service in the government departments of all the civil service employees.

Can Estimate Cost.

It is believed that with such information at hand experts can estimate with considerable accuracy what will be the cost to the government and to the clerks themselves of a retirement and pension system under the contributory plan. In this resolution the heads of the departments are directed to see to it that information regarding the age, salaries and length of service is given.

The Senate also has adopted a resolution providing that the Senate committee on civil service may hold hearings and summon witnesses, etc., during the session and during the recess of Congress if necessary.

Senator Pomerene said today that he expected to call his committee together soon and to determine on a plan of procedure. Probably further hearings would be granted, he said.

Need of a Pension Plan for U. S. Employees Cited at Senate Hearing

The need of the establishment by Congress of some system of retirement and pensions for superannuated civil service employees of the government was emphasized at the hearing yesterday afternoon before the Senate committee on civil service and retirement, which is considering the report of such a measure to the Senate.

The speakers impressed upon the members of the committee that the government employees would be willing to accept almost any sort of a retirement plan as an opening wedge, with the hope that it would be improved by later legislation.

Dr. Llewellyn Jordan of the United States Civil Service Retirement Association, chief of the hearing division of the Treasury Department, told the committee that in his opinion the best plan to adopt would be a contributory plan, but that the contribution should be divided between the government and the employee on an equitable basis. He said that such a system as he suggested was the only one that had proved satisfactory to employer and employee.

Ready to Accept Plan.

F. H. Flaherty of this city, representing a branch of the railway mail employees, said that while he was in favor of a straight pension plan, the government paying all, he and others who felt as he did would be glad to accept the contributory plan rather than to remain without any retirement system. He said:

"I am not so much concerned with the details of any proposed retirement system as I am with the principle involved. The need of the adoption of some such system is very great and must be apparent to the officers of the government as well as to the employees."

Dr. Jordan told the committee he intended to appear before the resolution committees of both the democratic and republican national conventions to urge that civil service retirement plans be inserted in the platforms of the two dominant political parties.

ATTEND AT OWN EXPENSE

Government Clerks Not Entitled to Pay While at Military Training Camps.

Government clerks, the controller of the Treasury ruled today, may not attend military training camps such as that at Plattsburg, N. Y., and Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., except at their own expense and without pay, unless they are attending during their regular vacation period. Under the law, the controller ruled, the government has not the power to give employees time off with pay to attend such camps.

The controller's ruling was made upon the request of Secretary McAdoo, who wrote that several employees of the supervising architect's office wanted to go to Plattsburg, but did not feel that they could lose their pay during the month of training. Mr. McAdoo asked if the government could give them time off with pay.

"In so far as I am advised," the controller replied, "there is no law authorizing the granting of military leave to government employees while attending such military training camps."



THE FIRST FALTERING PRESIDENTIAL HIKER.

SENATOR WEEKS NOT TO WITHDRAW

Announces Emphatically He Will Stay in Fight for G. O. P. Nomination.

Senator John W. Weeks of Massachusetts today authorized The Star to say for him emphatically that he has no intention of withdrawing from the contest for the republican presidential nomination. He is in the fight to stay, and said, moreover, that he expects to go into the convention with more votes at the outset than any other candidate.

Not to Withdraw, He Says.

"I shall not withdraw my candidacy for the nomination for the presidency. The suggestion that I should do so is in line with reports that have been circulated upon four or five occasions that I intended to step aside."

"There was no truth in those reports and no foundation for the suggestion made by the newspaper which is quoted as demanding my withdrawal. I will have more delegates when the voting begins than any other candidate, and I expect them to stay with me."

The "Weeks withdrawal" has been a political ghost which has stalked across the stage from time to time during the past two months, and each time it was "laid" by the senator refusing to stay under.

May Be Due to Crane.

It is thought by Massachusetts men at the Capitol that this latest recurrence may have followed the publication of a report that former Senator W. Murray Crane was getting weak, and turning to Hughes. No confirmation of that report, however, has been obtained.

The latest reports from Massachusetts were that Gov. McCall will be presented by his friends as a candidate for the nomination, and it is assumed here that the McCall and Weeks interests are clashing at this time.

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Senate.
Met at 11 a.m.
Resumed consideration rivers and harbors appropriation bill. Judiciary committee voted ten to eight for the bill reported on nomination of Louis D. Brandeis as associate justice Supreme Court.

House.
Met at 11 a.m.
Considered Oregon and California railway land grant bill, involving government recovery of Oregon lands valued at between \$30,000,000 and \$50,000,000. Naval appropriation bill was reported from naval committee.

DISTRICT IN CONGRESS.

House.
Naval appropriation bill reported today provides a new gunshop for the Washington navy yard; increases in pay for the members of the Marine Band, together with restrictions against playing in competition with private musicians.

PRINCE VON BUELOW REPORTED ON HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON

London Hears Former German Chancellor May Become Kaiser's Ambassador to United States.

Figures in Peace Rumors.

Prince von Buelow, one of the foremost statesmen of Europe, has been referred to frequently in the last few months as the man who might be selected by Emperor William to conduct preliminary peace negotiations, should they be undertaken. He had been mentioned in this connection not only on account of his experience and recognized ability, but because he has occupied rather a detached position, so far as actual conduct of the war is concerned.

Late in 1914 the former chancellor was sent to Rome by the emperor, and succeeded in delaying Italy's declaration of war on Austria. He is credited also with having prevented war between Germany and Italy. He then went to Switzerland, the ostensible reason being the ill health of his wife. From time to time it has been reported that the prince was engaged in peace negotiations, but so far as has been ascertained these rumors were without foundation. Several weeks ago he was called back to Berlin.

Doubted by von Bernstorff.

Regarding the report that Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, is to be superseded by Prince von Buelow, the ambassador said today that he had had no confirmation of the report. The same rumor was in circulation three weeks ago and a week later came the report that Prince von Buelow was to become secretary of foreign affairs at Berlin.

"Nothing further has been heard on this topic and the ambassador stated that he did not understand in the first place how the prince was to get to this point and when he arrived what would be his mission, as Germany is not seeking and would not make peace overtures."

State Department officials were frankly skeptical of the accuracy of the report that Prince von Buelow was coming to Washington on a special mission from Emperor William. They have received no official confirmation that such a visit was in prospect.

London Origin Suspicious.

A high official pointed out that the report originated in London, which to his mind cast doubt upon its truth, since it was certain to be widely discussed as a possible peace overture from Germany. The Berlin government, he said, has not yet seen fit to suggest a peace overture officially or confidentially in any way.

The possibility that the former chancellor would supplant Count von Bernstorff as ambassador here also was greatly doubted in official circles. Ambassador von Bernstorff's diplomatic achievements through the submarine controversy, it was stated, seemed to make it certain that he would be left undisturbed by his government.

Should Prince von Buelow arrive in Washington on a special mission official thought it likely that his task would be somewhat similar to that assigned to Col. E. M. House by President Wilson on several occasions when the excess of cargo before being allowed to former has visited the belligerent capital.

Lake Steamers' Cargoes Limited.

DETROIT, Mich., May 24.—William Livingston, president of the Lake Carriers' Association, has been informed by the United States engineers' office that action is to be taken to prevent loading of lake freighters to such a depth that they will incur the risk of stranding in Lake St. Clair channel.

It is understood that any vessel loaded to a depth greater than 19 feet and 9 inches, the recommended draft for the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, will be detained and required to discharge the excess of cargo before being allowed to proceed through the locks.

NAMES THE AUTHOR OF WARNING WORD

State Discloses That Woman Sent "K. Adams" Telegram Figuring in Waite Case.

WIFE OF THE DEFENDANT IS WITNESS AGAINST HIM

Prosecution Seeks Motives for Alleged Murder of John E. Peck, Michigan Millionaire.

NEW YORK, May 24.—The sender of the mysterious "K. Adams" telegram, which has figured in the case of Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, accused of the murder of his father-in-law, John E. Peck, millionaire Grand Rapids drug manufacturer, was identified as Elizabeth B. Hardwick of Somerville, N. J., at Waite's trial today. This was the telegram sent from New York to Grand Rapids, urging Percy Peck to have an autopsy performed on his father's body.

Mrs. Clara Louise Peck Waite faced her husband, Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, in the court for the first time today, when she took the stand as a witness against him.

Quietly Enters Court.

Mrs. Waite, dressed in mourning, came into the courtroom so quietly that few observed her as she took a seat behind the jury box as her brother, Percy Peck, was testifying.

Dr. Waite, who had been sitting with bowed head all the forenoon, looked at his wife, but she appeared not to see him.

Mrs. Waite testified concerning her father's visit from Grand Rapids to New York, and said that Waite suggested that Dr. Albertus A. Moore be called to see her father.

"We—that is, father, Dr. Waite and myself—had planned to go to Hot Springs on a visit. Father appeared to be in very good health," she said.

Probing for Motives.

The trial of Dr. Waite advanced today to an exposition of motives supposed to lie behind the alleged crime. Technical evidence to prove that the young dentist killed Mr. Peck by them, as to lend color to the hypothesis, the district attorney called to the stand the defendant's wife and brother, Percy Peck, of Grand Rapids.

Dr. Waite not only made a study of deadly diseases, but he had also confessed he killed Mrs. John E. Peck, but appears to have been a student of medical books on the uses of poisonous drugs, according to testimony introduced today.

John Cunniff, a special officer attached to the district attorney's office, recalled to the stand, told of having received from Eugene O. Kane, who employed Peck's body, a bottle containing a sample of the fluid used. Cunniff also identified several medical books found in Waite's apartment. One of them, he said, had been marked at a passage dealing with arsenic poisoning.

Death Caused by Arsenic.

Dr. Perry Schurz of Grand Rapids, Mich., who said he made the autopsy on Peck's body the day it arrived in Grand Rapids, following the receipt of the "K. Adams" telegram, corroborated the testimony of other physicians as to the presence of arsenic in the body and declared he undoubtedly caused death.

Percy Peck of Grand Rapids, son of John E. Peck, testified that February 10 last Dr. Waite told him that his father had been retained in July, 1914, as counsel for the Riggs National Bank and personal counsel for the defendants and was named as a witness in the controversy between John Skilton Williams and the bank in the most complete details long before the details of the controversy became known.

"I was brought into the case," Mr. Hogan said, "by the late Dr. Ross Perry, who was the attorney for the bank, and never boasted a more eminent member."

Counsel Has Received No Fee.

Great surprise was occasioned in the courtroom when Mr. Hogan testified that he had not received nor would he receive \$1 by way of retainer's fee from the Riggs National Bank or Mr. Glover or the Messrs. Flather for his services as counsel in the case. He swore that he was not obliged to count on the fee because of his intimate personal contact with it and the details which led up to it, and that it had not been his intention to take any active part as counsel because of the fact that it would be necessary for him to be a witness. He testified, however, that Mr. Darlington and other counsel for the defense and the bank officials had insisted that he take on the case as counsel in the conduct of the case.

PICK THE WRONG AERODROME.

German Aviators Land Inside British Lines and Are Captured.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, May 23, via London, May 24.—A unique incident occurred today when for the first time during the war, so far as is known, an aeroplane mistook a hostile aerodrome for its own.

Through the morning mist the aviators at one of the German aerodromes saw a German machine circling as if it were about to descend. Without interfering with its movements, thinking that it had lost its bearings, they watched it come lower until it finally swept past and came to a rest.

The German aviator and his pilot saw their mistake too late when figures in khaki came running up, and they realized that they were prisoners. The captured machine was a new one of the latest type.

Huge War Credit Is Voted.

LONDON, May 24.—The house of commons yesterday agreed unanimously to vote the £300,000,000 war credit proposed by Premier Asquith.

DEFENSE'S LAWYER PLACED ON STAND

Frank J. Hogan Tells of Controversy Between Riggs Bank and Controller.

CHARLES P. WILLIAMS ALSO IS A WITNESS

Reveals Why Lewis Johnson & Co. Carried Name of Riggs Concern on Their Books.

An important development today in the trial of past and present Riggs Bank officials on the charge of perjury was the placing on the witness stand by the defense of Frank J. Hogan, counsel for the defense, for the purpose of getting before the jury a number of facts in the case of which he has personal knowledge, some of which were ruled out by the court and some of which could not be brought out by the defense while they were examining previous witnesses.

Mr. Hogan told the jury in complete details of the beginning of the controversy between John Skilton Williams, controller of the currency, and the Riggs National Bank, as well as the events which led up to the filing of the injunction suit against the Treasury officials to restrain the bank from charging that Treasury officials were trying to wreck the institution. He described how he and formerly Senator Joseph Bailey had decided during the trial of the injunction proceedings last year without consulting any of the Riggs Bank officials to draw the famous affidavit under which the officials swore that the bank did not deal in stocks, which affidavit has brought upon the heads of the bank officials the government charge of perjury.

Cites Undermeyer Statements.

He said that last year during the injunction proceedings Samuel Undermeyer of counsel for the government at that time said during a morning session of the court, "We do not claim that the bank, as a bank, has been speculating," and in the afternoon following he said to the court, "The Riggs National Bank was an active trader through the Lewis Johnson Company, even to the extent of shorting."

Mr. Hogan testified that Justice McCoy, who presided last year in the injunction case, said that he was not a lawyer for a repetition of that statement, for verification purposes, and Undermeyer repeated it.

"I determined," Mr. Hogan said, "to file the affidavit after consultation only with former Senator Bailey and without consultation with the bank officials."

He then described how he went to the bank and drew the affidavit, only his stenographer being present.

Good Humor Is Shown.

There was at first a disposition on the part of the government to object to Mr. Hogan's statements on the witness stand, Mr. Fitts, assistant to the Attorney General, declaring that much of what Mr. Hogan was saying was "hearsay," but the taking of the evidence proceeded with good humor on both sides, and the controversy of amenities occurring when Mr. Archer at one point said: "I like Mr. Stanchfield, so much I withdraw my objection."

Whereupon Mr. Hogan proceeded to talk directly to the jury, explaining the ins and outs of the controversy between John Skilton Williams, the controller of the currency, and the bank. Mr. Hogan said he was thirty-nine years old, had lived here for fifteen years and had been a member of the bar since October, 1902. Mr. Stanchfield brought out that Mr. Hogan occupies two chairs at Georgetown University Law School, in one of which he lectures to 350 students and in another 200 students. He said he had been retained in July, 1914, as counsel for the Riggs National Bank and personal counsel for the defendants and was named as a witness in the controversy between John Skilton Williams and the bank in the most complete details long before the details of the controversy became known.

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C. P. Williams Testifies.

Another very important development of the trial was the testimony of Charles P. Williams, who was at one time a member of the firm of Lewis Johnson & Co., and who was subpoenaed by the government but never placed on the witness stand by the district attorney.

Called to the stand today, however, by the defense, he testified that he was a member of the firm of Lewis Johnson & Co. in the name of the Riggs National Bank, was conducted in the name of the bank solely for the convenience of Lewis Johnson & Co. in the same way as accounts were carried by the Johnson & Co. firm with all the other banks in Washington with which the firm did business, and that often the names of the customers for whom stock transactions were made by the bank were on the books of Lewis Johnson & Co.

An interesting incident of the day was testimony to the effect that the celebrated stock commission account which was used for the purpose of making subscriptions to public money-raising funds, and that out of this stock commission account contributed the sum of \$1,000 toward the fund raised here to pay the expenses of the